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LEBANON-SYRIA: Tentative Agreement

The agreement between Presidents Gemayel and Assad to set up a new Lebanese Government fails to resolve the most difficult political issues and almost certainly will be opposed by Christian hardliners. [redacted]

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Syrian Vice President Khaddam and an aide to Druze leader Junblatt told US officials on Saturday that Gemayel agreed to appoint former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami to head a government of national unity. Gemayel will expand the cabinet to 26 ministers, including four "super ministers"—Junblatt, Shia leader Barri, and Christian leaders Camille Shamun and Pierre Gemayel. [redacted]

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Khaddam and Junblatt's aide also said that the new government will establish ministerial committees to consider specific reforms of the political system and to oversee and restructure the Lebanese Army. According to the Druze official, Army commander Tannous will be removed from office. [redacted]

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Christian hardliners in the Lebanese Forces militias, however, have already announced their opposition to the agreement and their intention neither to support nor to participate in a new government. Christian leader Shamun publicly rejected the appointment of Karami as prime minister. [redacted]

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Comment: The agreement relegates to ministerial committees the most troublesome issues—such as secularizing the political system and power sharing between the President and the Prime Minister. Although Druze and Shia militia leaders may agree to participate in an expanded government, disagreements with Christian ministers are likely to cripple a coalition cabinet in the long term. [redacted]

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Opposition from Christian hardliners, moreover, will seriously weaken the credibility of a government of national unity. Even moderate Christians are likely to resent the agreement, which they see as a humiliating capitulation to Syria. Christian leaders have repeatedly stated that they will not accept Karami, who is strongly pro-Syrian, as prime minister. [redacted]

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LIBYA-UK:**Response to Severed Relations**

Tripoli's response to London's breaking of relations over the weekend probably will be restrained, although demonstrations could be staged to protest British "aggression." [redacted]

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The UK announced that Libyans leaving the Embassy in London would be questioned and searched for arms and explosives. London earlier rejected Libyan leader Qadhafi's attempt to gain freedom for his diplomats by offering to permit British observers to attend a trial of those charged by the UK. The British Foreign Office has not yet advised British residents in Libya to leave the country, but they have been told to "consider their position." [redacted]

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Comment: The British decision to break relations was probably influenced by public anger and by impatience with the pace of negotiations. Qadhafi wants to keep British businessmen in Libya despite the break because of their important role in the oil and service industries. His direct response probably will be restrained. [redacted]

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Qadhafi nonetheless will wage an intense diplomatic effort to blame London for the break in relations, and he may order the harassment of British diplomats leaving Tripoli in retaliation for the questioning of Libyan officials by the UK. He also could arrange demonstrations against the UK, which could lead to violence against British citizens and property. The British decision also could prompt Libyan agents, perhaps acting without orders, to strike targets in the UK and elsewhere. [redacted]

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Prime Minister Thatcher probably hopes the situation will go no farther than the expulsion of diplomats. Her main concern remains the risk to British subjects in Libya. [redacted]

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CHINA-US:**Chinese Treatment of Taiwan Policy**

Senior Chinese officials appear to accept for now US policy on Taiwan and indicate greater interest in expanding security ties.

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Official Chinese policy guidance has quoted Foreign Minister Wu to the effect that President Reagan's "attitude" toward Taiwan has changed for the better. Other Chinese officials note that the US has not taken any action recently that would force China to react strongly. In addition, Chinese media last week favorably replayed remarks by the President and Secretary of State Shultz on US relations with China and Taiwan.

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Wu said that the basic direction of bilateral relations is now fixed, despite disagreements with the US over Taiwan. He acknowledged that no US President would stop arms sales to Taiwan or abandon the notion of "one China, one Taiwan."

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Defense Minister Zhang on Friday said Secretary of Defense Weinberger's visit to China last September marked the beginning of cooperation in conventional weapons, and he predicted expanded cooperation in the future.

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Comment: Chinese leaders apparently have decided they can do little to alter US policy toward Taiwan in the near term. They almost certainly will raise the issue during the President's visit, but they may subordinate their harsh demands of the past to their larger interest in improving economic and strategic relations with the US.

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Recent Chinese statements on security cooperation suggest that some influential leaders are interested in improving relations with the US on strategic grounds.

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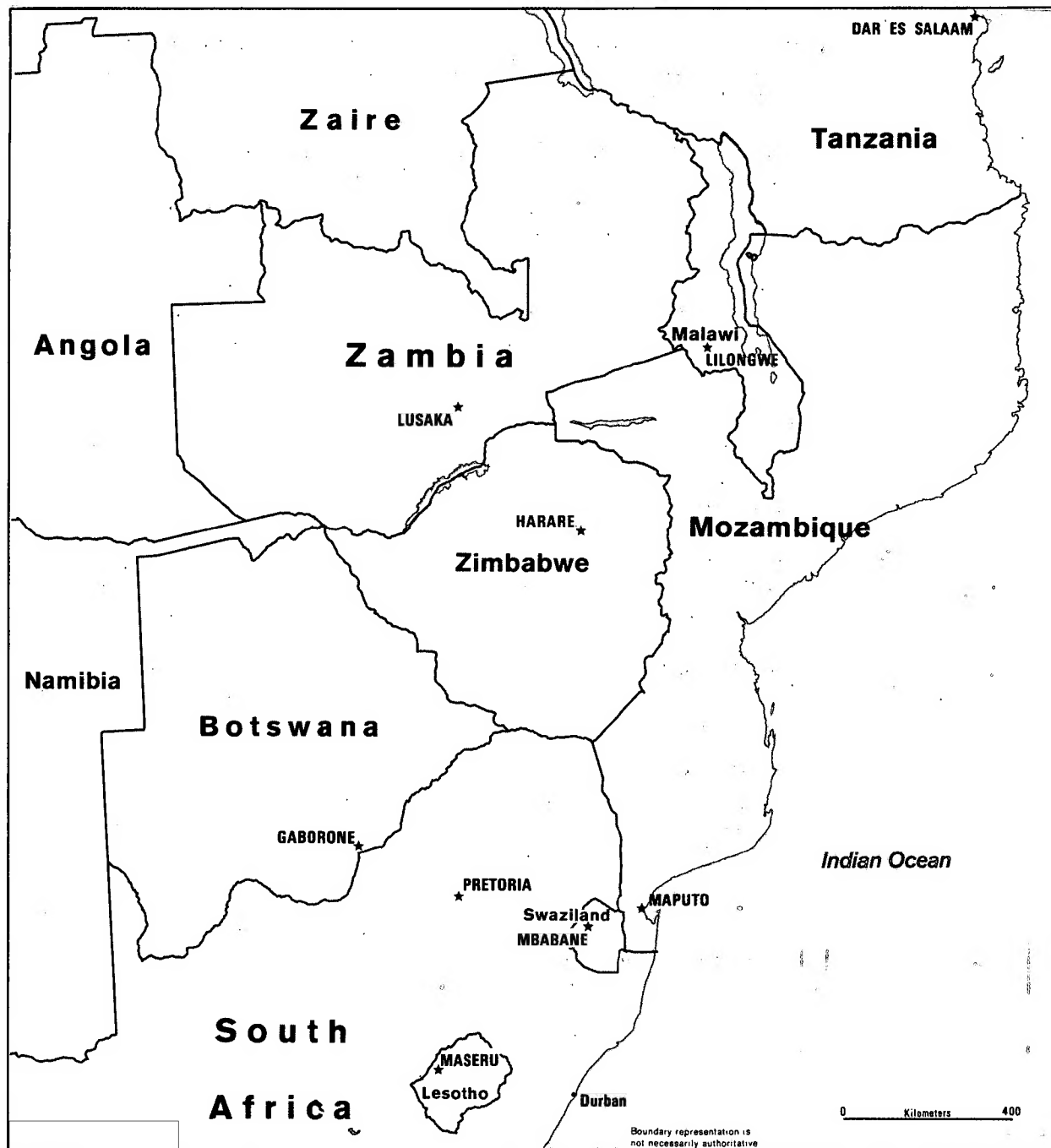
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SOUTHERN AFRICA: Difficulties of the ANC

Recent clashes between ANC guerrillas and Swazi police underline the problems facing the group since South Africa and Mozambique signed a nonaggression pact last month. []

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Mozambique will allow a few ANC officials to remain in Maputo but is demanding that other members move to refugee camps or leave the country. The US Embassy reports that senior Mozambican officials have been surprised by the large quantities of Soviet and East European arms and explosives uncovered in raids on ANC facilities in the country. []

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More than 100 ANC members who recently have fled from Mozambique to Swaziland are being pressed by Swazi officials to leave. Swazi police report encountering heavily armed ANC guerrillas, and three clashes this month have resulted in casualties on both sides. Swaziland claims that Pretoria threatened to take direct action against the ANC in Swaziland after a car bomb explosion in Durban, which South Africa alleges was carried out by ANC insurgents based in Swaziland. []

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Since the signing of the accord by Pretoria and Maputo, top ANC officials have been traveling throughout southern Africa trying to strengthen the group's sagging external support, but they have had little success. Botswana, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe reportedly have reaffirmed their political support for the group but have taken added measures to prevent the ANC from using their territories to launch attacks against South Africa. []

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Comment: Although the ANC is in disarray, the group will try to find reinfiltration routes and develop a military infrastructure in South Africa while continuing sporadic attacks. Politically, however, frictions between the ANC and black states in the region may develop into hostility. Pretoria, meanwhile, appears determined to persuade other black states to sign security agreements that would work against the ANC. []

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NETHERLANDS:**Posture on INF**

Prime Minister Lubbers appears determined to push ahead soon with a vote on INF in parliament, even though prospects for a decision acceptable to NATO appear to be poor.

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In a press interview last week, Lubbers reiterated his determination to make a vote on INF policy a matter of confidence. He warned his divided Christian Democratic colleagues and Liberal coalition partners that they must reach an agreement on this issue. Christian Democratic leaders have publicly rejected full deployment of 48 missiles.

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The Prime Minister, in the interview, also appeared to rule out other widely discussed deployment options—such as smaller numbers of missiles and reductions in other Dutch nuclear tasks—and claimed that a negative decision on INF would not mean a reduced commitment to NATO.

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Comment: Lubbers evidently takes seriously his frequent claim that a deployment decision should be made this spring, even though he recognizes the serious risk of a government crisis. He probably is still trying to come up with a package of proposals that will hold the Christian Democrats together and be acceptable to the Liberals and to the NATO Allies.

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By repeatedly asserting that the center-right coalition will fall unless it can reach a consensus on INF, the Prime Minister is trying to force agreement within the Cabinet on a single proposal. Press speculation continues to center on a plan whereby the Dutch would begin base construction but agree to install the missiles only in time of crisis. Lubbers, however, could consider asking parliament to support base construction without a deployment decision, but only if he received Allied assurances that NATO would soon undertake a new arms limitation initiative.

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Lubbers may be laying the groundwork for a justification of his policy in the event parliament rejects the coalition's proposal and prompts the government to resign. The Prime Minister seems to resent charges that the Netherlands is not loyal to NATO. By making INF deployment a matter of confidence and publicly risking his office on the decision, Lubbers will be able to make the case to the NATO Allies that he did everything possible to gain the approval of parliament.

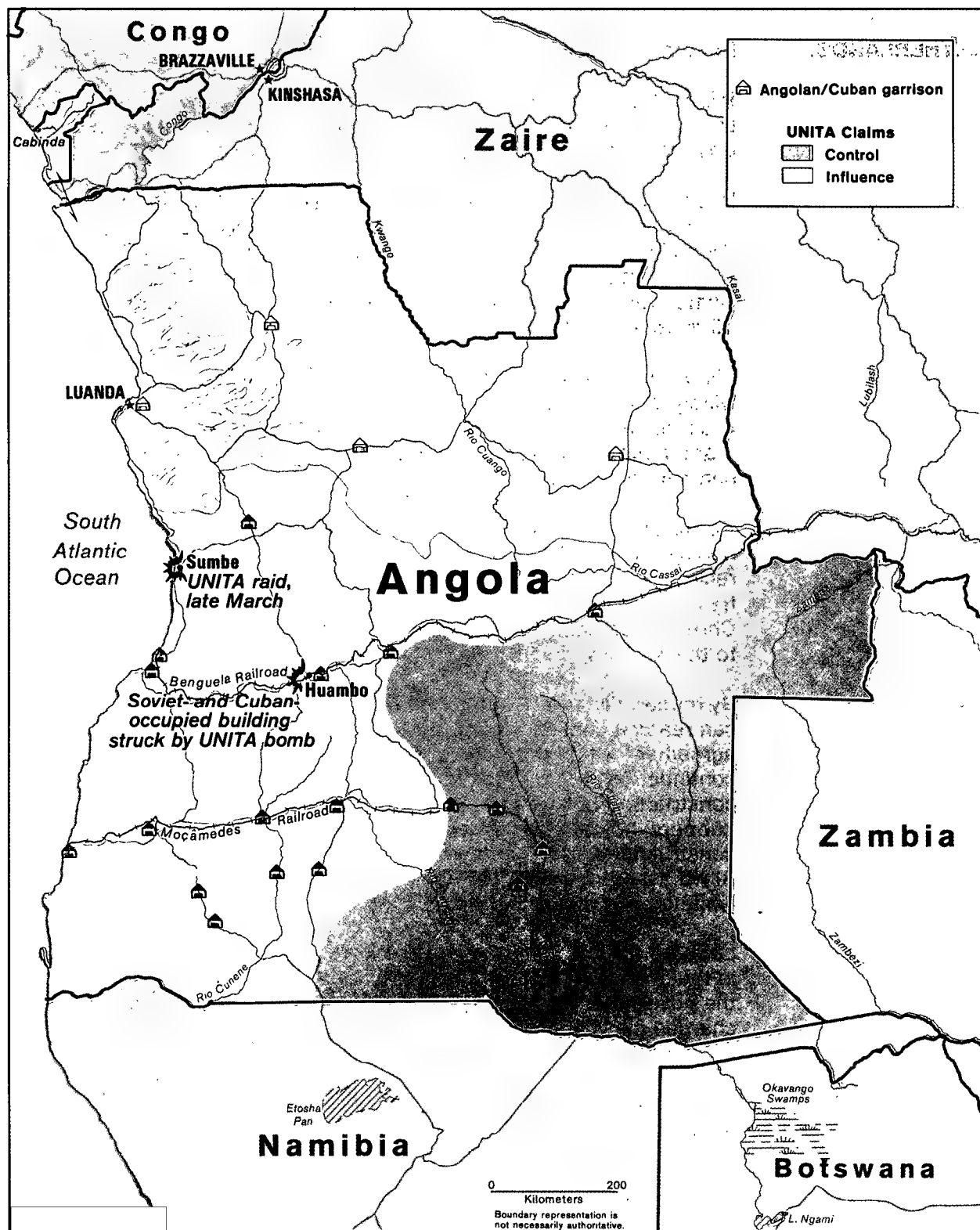
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ANGOLA: UNITA Bombing

UNITA claims to have exploded a bomb at a building occupied by Soviet and Cuban nationals in Huambo, Angola's second-largest city, killing more than 200 people, including two Soviet and 37 Cuban officers. TASS has confirmed the incident on Thursday but reported that the bomb exploded near an apartment house occupied by Cuban civilian aid workers and their families, causing about 100 casualties.

[redacted]

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Comment: Last month UNITA promised to intensify its military efforts in a campaign that would increasingly be directed against Angolan cities. Late last month, a UNITA force temporarily seized the poorly defended provincial capital of Sumbe, but the presence of a large Angolan and Cuban garrison in Huambo rules out a direct assault there. Stepped up urban guerrilla activity in Angola's major cities, combined with operations in the countryside where the insurgents already hold the initiative, will hinder Luanda's consideration of a Cuban troop withdrawal. The insurgent campaign will also reinforce the position of the hardliners in the government who have vetoed discussions with UNITA and have argued against reductions in Cuban troop strength.

[redacted]

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YUGOSLAVIA: Dissident Crackdown

The arrest on Friday of former Vice President and prominent dissident Milovan Djilas probably was meant to strengthen the credibility of repeated calls for social discipline. Djilas, the last survivor of Tito's inner circle, was arrested along with 27 other intellectuals who had met to discuss Yugoslavia's nationality problems. Although Djilas was among those released on Saturday, 21 reportedly remain in detention. Party leaders are publicly attacking the increasing criticism from dissidents and warning that Central Committee members and regional politicians must stop obstructing political reform.

[redacted]

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Comment: The US Embassy suggests that Serb President Ljubicic and other Serb conservatives may be responsible for the arrests. Ljubicic, who becomes Serbia's representative on the state Presidency next month, cultivates Serb nationalist sentiment and supports increased central authority. Nevertheless, as the Embassy notes, top party and state officials almost certainly approved of the crackdown. They are preparing for the latest in a series of Central Committee plenums that have so far failed to break the political logjam created by the decentralized political system bequeathed by Tito.

[redacted]

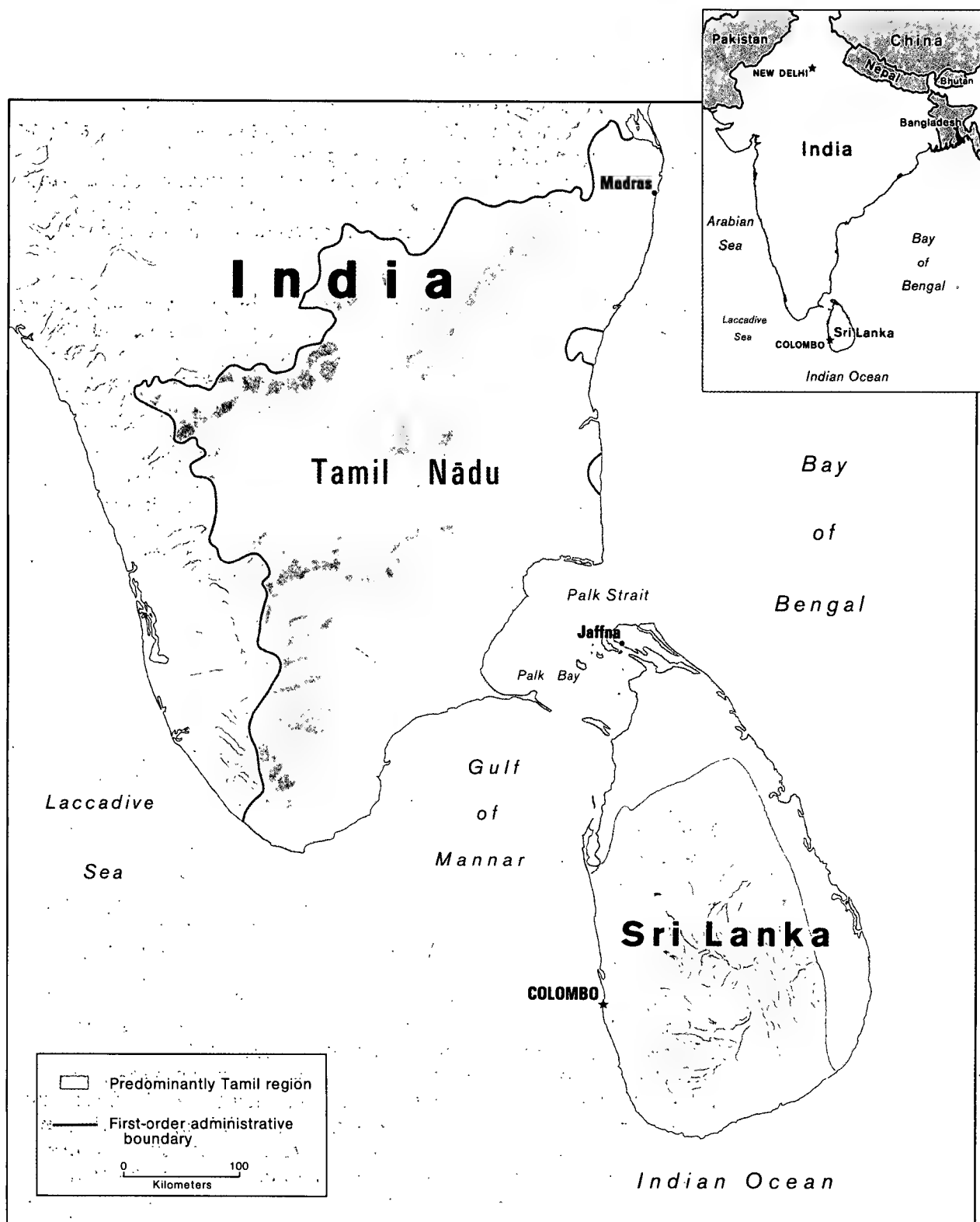
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SRI LANKA-INDIA: Tamil Insurgents Suppressed

Ethnic violence between Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority and the country's Tamil insurgents has abated since Sri Lanka's new Minister for National Security returned from New Delhi last week. The minister reported in parliament he had been assured by senior Indian political advisers that New Delhi was committed to maintaining a unified Sri Lanka. Indian Tamil leaders in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, however, are continuing to call on New Delhi to prepare for armed intervention in Sri Lanka to protect Tamil civilians in the event of another round of violence, according to press and US Embassy reporting.

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Comment: The current lull in communal violence is in response to Colombo's tough new antiterrorism program instituted by the Minister for National Security. The brutality of the Army's tactics has alienated even moderate Tamils and increased the likelihood of a more extreme round of ethnic violence. New Delhi has informed Colombo—as well as the US and the UK—that Indian military intervention to stop further communal bloodshed is still a distinct possibility if President Jayewardene cannot maintain law and order.

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POLAND: Aid to Agriculture

Polish Catholic Church spokesman Father Orszulik late last week told the US Embassy that a law that will govern the Church's newly established foundation for aid to private agriculture should be ready for implementation in June. Regime and Church officials, who have been negotiating since January, are attempting to work out provisions of the statute spelling out the extent of government oversight. The priest said the sides must also reach agreement on another document that will regulate the foundation's financial dealings, but he does not expect any significant delays.

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Comment: Although the negotiations appear to be moving forward, Orszulik may be overly optimistic about the timing. Compromises probably will have to be made on both sides, but the regime will insist on retaining sufficient oversight powers to show that it is in control.

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VIETNAM-KAMPUCHEA-CHINA: Border Tensions

The US Embassy in Bangkok reports that late last week Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea withdrew from some positions near the Khmer People's National Liberation Front base at Ban Sa Ngae. Heavy shelling continued over the weekend, however, and KPNLF officials believe the Vietnamese may be preparing for additional ground attacks there and on non-Communist bases at Nong Samet, Nong Chan, and Ta Tum. Press reports indicate that 34 Thai troops have been wounded since Thursday in attempting to drive Vietnamese troops from a hill in Thai territory near Ban Charat. Vietnamese and Chinese media are charging that border clashes increased last week, and [] an increased Chinese military presence has caused food shortages in the Nanning area. []

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Comment: Vietnamese attacks have placed most guerrilla forces on the defensive and may have hampered their plans for vigorous rainy season attacks. []

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[] Beijing does not appear likely to enlarge the scale of its attacks soon. []

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USSR-MOZAMBIQUE: Soviets Defensive About Aid

The Soviet Ambassador in Maputo recently told the press that "Mozambique can count on us," despite its nonaggression agreement with South Africa. The US Embassy reports that the Ambassador was defensive about criticism that the USSR was partially responsible for Mozambique's serious economic problems. He said, however, that Moscow has promised more aid on concessional terms.

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Comment: Soviet economic aid to Mozambique has been meager, and Moscow seems reconciled to merely maintaining the foothold it acquired largely as a result of the weapons it continues to supply. The Soviet unwillingness to provide large amounts of economic aid to Mozambique is typical of Moscow's policy toward Third World countries that it does not consider of vital strategic importance.

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In Brief**Middle East-Africa**

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- The Jerusalem Committee of the **Islamic Conference** has called on its 45 members to break relations with **El Salvador** and **Costa Rica** . . . issue is move of Embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem . . . invited **Moroccan** King Hassan to visit US to discuss issue . . . Hassan has no plans for trip at this time. []

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Asia-Pacific

- **Chinese** press says Vice-Premier Li Peng to sign nuclear cooperation agreement in Bonn next month . . . will include nonproliferation commitments but no inspection rights . . . **West Germans** to sell coolant pumps for nuclear plant in Shanghai. []
- Rumors that **North Korean** President Kim Il-song is ill remain unsubstantiated . . . Kim, 72, is overweight and hypertensive but keeping to active schedule . . . no unusual security precautions apparent in P'yongyang. []
- **Australian** Prime Minister Hawke for first time is publicly confirming speculation about early elections . . . not required until early 1986, but he expects to call for voting between December and next March . . . probably anxious to capitalize on high public approval ratings. []

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Europe

- Western press reports state **Czechoslovak** Cardinal Tomasek has invited the Pope to visit next year . . . Prague unlikely to approve, fearing domestic impact of such a visit . . . regime reportedly arresting Catholics circulating petitions asking the Pope to come. []

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